

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A telescopic shaft for steering of a vehicle, assembled in a steering shaft and including a male shaft and a female shaft that are so fitted to be capable of transferring torque and to be movable in an axial direction relative to each other,

characterized in that a first torque transfer portion, which includes a first torque transfer member and an elastic body, is formed in at least one line of axially-extending groove formed in each of an outer peripheral surface of said male shaft and an inner peripheral surface of said female shaft,

~~a second torque transfer portion is formed between the outer peripheral surface of said male shaft and the inner peripheral surface of said female shaft, and~~

said elastic body includes:

a transfer member sided contact portion being in contact with said first torque transfer member;

a groove surface sided contact portion spaced at a predetermined interval substantially in a peripheral direction from said transfer member sided contact portion, and being in contact with a groove surface of said axially-extending groove of said male shaft or said female shaft; and

a biasing portion elastically biasing said transfer member sided contact portion and said groove surface sided contact portion in such a direction as to get separated from each other.

7. (Currently Amended) A telescopic shaft for steering of a vehicle according to claim 621, wherein said first torque transfer portion includes rolling members that roll when said two shafts make relative movements in the axial direction, and

said second torque transfer member includes a slide member that slides when said two shafts make the relative movements in the axial direction.

8. (Previously Presented) A telescopic shaft for steering of a vehicle according to claim 6, wherein said biasing portion of said elastic body takes a bent shape bent between said transfer member sided contact portion and said groove surface sided contact portion.

9. (Previously Presented) A telescopic shaft for steering of a vehicle according to claim 6, wherein said axially-extending groove of said male shaft or said female shaft has a flat side surface which is in contact with said groove surface sided contact portion of said elastic body, and a bottom surface contiguous to said flat side surface,

said elastic body has a bottom portion facing said bottom surface of said axially-extending groove, and

said bottom portion of said elastic body is set in a contact state with said bottom surface of said axially-extending groove, or an interval between said bottom surface of said axially-extending groove and said bottom portion of said elastic body is set to a predetermined interval.

10. (Previously Presented) A telescopic shaft for steering of a vehicle according to claim 6, wherein said biasing portion of said elastic body is a separate portion from said transfer member sided contact portion and from said groove surface sided contact portion, and is formed of a different material.

11. (Previously Presented) A telescopic shaft for steering of a vehicle according to claim 6, wherein said elastic body includes, in addition to said transfer member sided contact portion, said groove surface sided contact portion and said biasing portion, a second biasing portion formed of a different material as a separate portion.

12. (Previously Presented) A telescopic shaft for steering of a vehicle according to claim 6, wherein said elastic body is constructed of a leaf spring.

13. (Currently Amended) A telescopic shaft for steering of a vehicle according to claim ~~6~~ 11, wherein said biasing portion provided as the separate portion and formed of the different material and said second biasing portion provided as the separate portion and formed of

the different material, are made of a rubber or a synthetic resin.

14. (Original) A telescopic shaft for steering of a vehicle according to claim 6, wherein a lubricating agent is applied between said axially-extending groove of said male shaft, said axially-extending groove of said female shaft, said elastic body and said first torque transfer member.

Claims 15-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A telescopic shaft for steering of a vehicle according to claim 6, wherein a second torque transfer portion is formed between the outer peripheral surface of said male shaft and the inner peripheral surface of said female shaft.